

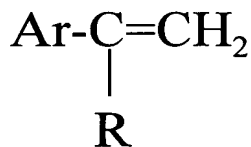
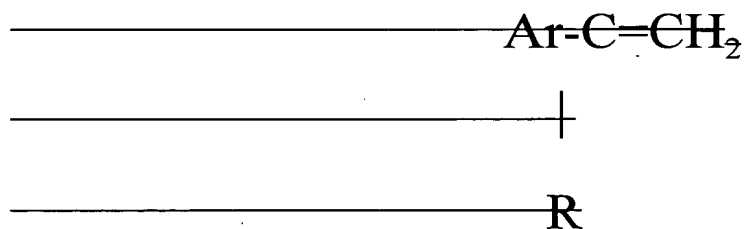
In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following:

[0001] This invention relates to improving the thermal stability of flame retardants that have bromine atoms attached directly to one or more aliphatic or cycloaliphatic carbon atom in the molecule, such as for example, 1,2,5,6-tetrabromocyclooctane (hereinafter often referred to as tetrabromocyclooctane) and 1,2-dibromo-4-(1,2-dibromoethyl)cyclohexane (hereinafter often referred to as dibromoethyl-dibromocyclohexane). This invention also relates to use of the resultant flame retardant/thermal stabilizer combinations in the production of flame retardant olefinic polymers such as polyethylene and polypropylene, or styrenic polymers such as general purpose polystyrene (GPPS), medium impact polystyrene (MIPS), high impact polystyrene (HIPS), extruded polystyrene foam (XPS), and expandable polystyrene (EPS) ~~GPPS, MIPS, HIPS, XPS and EPS.~~

Replace paragraph [0035] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0035] Monomers used in the preparation of styrenic polymers typically are of the formula



where Ar is an aromatic hydrocarbyl group and R is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group. Examples of such styrenic polymers are homopolymers of styrene, alpha-methylstyrene, o-methylstyrene, m-methylstyrene, p-methylstyrene, ar-ethylstyrene, ar-vinylstyrene, ar-

chlorostyrene, ar-bromostyrene, ar-propylstyrene, ar-isopropylstyrene, 4-tert-butylstyrene, o-methyl-alpha-methylstyrene, m-methyl-alpha-methylstyrene, p-methyl-alpha-methylstyrene, ar-ethyl-alpha-methylstyrene,; and copolymers of two or more of such alkenyl aromatic compounds with minor amounts (by weight) of other readily polymerizable olefinic compounds such as, for example, methylmethacrylate, acrylonitrile, maleic anhydride, citraconic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, acrylic acid, vinyl carbazole, and rubber reinforced (either natural or synthetic) styrenic polymers. Preferably at least 80 weight % of styrene is incorporated in the styrenic copolymers. Thus in each and every embodiment of this invention set forth anywhere in this disclosure, the styrenic polymer preferably comprises polystyrene or a styrenic copolymer in which at least 80 wt% of the polymer is formed from styrene. It is also possible to flame retard blends of styrenic polymer with one or more non-styrenic polymers such as poly(2,6-dimethylphenylene oxide), poly(2,6-dimethylphenylene oxide)-co-(2,3,6-trimethylphenylene oxide), and similar polyphenylene oxide polymers; polycarbonates; polysulfones; polyesters; and other suitable polymers. Such base polymer blends (*i.e.*, without reference to additives) are preferably formed from about 40 to about 99.9 weight percent of styrenic polymer, the balance (to 100 weight percent) being one or more of such other polymers. Methods for preparing styrenic homopolymers, styrenic copolymers, impact-modified styrenic polymers, and styrenic polymer blends with other thermoplastic polymers are known and reported in the literature.